

SECTION: CERTIFICATION

SUBJECT: Eligibility Requirement

ITEM: *Infant/Children: Nutrition Assessment Requirements-
- Determining Anthropometric Nutrition Need*



Purpose The purpose of this policy is to clarify U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) requirements for obtaining and using anthropometric data to determine whether a participant has an anthropometric nutrition need.

Policy At each certification the competent professional authority (CPA) (refer to WPM Section 130-20 for definition of CPA) shall determine whether an anthropometric nutrition need exists. The CPA shall use height and weight measurements obtained:

- from a WIC referral form,
- from a medical or clinical record, or
- measuring the participant at the WIC site.

Staff shall document the source of anthropometric data in the Integrated Statewide Information System (ISIS) Health Information and Growth Chart screens. The choice of the code 'O' for Other requires an explanation using the Individual Comments Screen.

Authority for policy 7 CFR 246.7 (e) and WRO Policy Memos 803-7 and 803-10

Timefram for anthropo-metric data Height and weight measurements are required at each certification. Measurements shall be obtained no more than 60 days prior to the date of the certification.

Measure-ments If the height and weight measurements are not provided at the time the infant/child is certified, the local agency staff shall weigh and measure the participant in the WIC site. Recumbent length shall be used for infants and children under 24 months of age. Standing height shall be used for children 24 months of age and older. Anthropometric data shall be entered into ISIS

Assessment

The ISIS database compares the height and weight measurements entered into the system to standards established by USDA and set forth in WPM Section 210.60.1 and determines if an anthropometric indicator of nutrition need exists for:

- birth length and weight, if appropriate, and
- current growth status: length/height-for-age and weight-for-length/height for infants and children less than 24 months old; and BMI-for-age for children 24 months or older.

Note: ISIS uses standing height measurements to calculate BMI-for-age; therefore, local agencies shall use the weight-for-length growth chart for children 24 to 36 months old requiring recumbent length measurements and document the results on the ISIS Individual Nutrition Education Plan (INEP).

Documentation

Local agency staff shall document the following anthropometric data in ISIS:

- height and weight measurements beginning with the appropriate "Health Information" screen,
 - birth weight and length on the "Pregnancy Outcome" screen if available when:
 - a woman re-certifies from the pregnant category to the breastfeeding or non-breastfeeding category, or
 - the infant of a woman described above is certified, and
 - all anthropometric, biochemical, clinical and dietary codes identified during assessments throughout the certification period.
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Exemption to required anthropometric assessment during initial certification

Infants under eight weeks of age who are born to WIC participants and who cannot be weighed and measured at certification for a reason determined appropriate by the local agency and for whom all other necessary information is provided, may be exempt from an anthropometric assessment. Local agency staff shall require the parent(s)/caretaker(s) to bring the infant to the next appointment after the infant reaches eight weeks of age. Food instruments shall not be issued after the infant reaches eight weeks of age unless the infant has been present at the local WIC agency and had their anthropometric nutrition need assessed.

**Exemption to
required
anthropo-
metric
assessment
during initial
re-certification**

Local agency staff shall excuse an applicant or participant from anthropometric assessment when obtaining the data would present an unreasonable barrier to current participation under circumstances defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. When this occurs, the agency must document the reason for the exemption in family comments and make realistic efforts to obtain the data.
